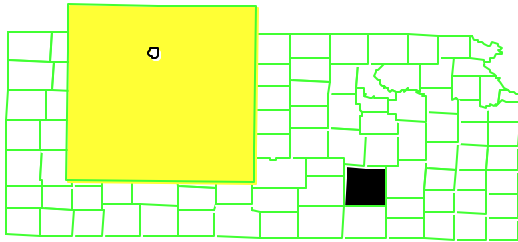


**PESTER REFINERY
COMPANY**
KANSAS
EPA ID# KSD000829846

EPA Region 7
City: El Dorado
County: Butler County
Other Names:

07/10/2002



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Pester Refinery Company site is located on a 10-acre tract to the north and west of the city of El Dorado, Butler County, Kansas. The refinery operations began in 1917. Refinery wastes were stored in the burn pond and these wastes were periodically ignited through the mid-1970s. The burn pond is adjacent to the West Branch of the Walnut River. In 1987 the Kansas Department of Health and the Environment (KDHE) found seepage from the impoundment entering the river and conducted sampling. During rainfall events pond water has occasionally overflowed and discharged to the river and adjacent flood plain. An estimated 160 people obtain drinking water from private wells located within 3 miles of the site.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through federal, state, and potentially responsible party actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 06/24/1988

Final Date: 03/31/1989

Deleted Date:

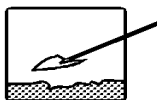
THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS



Groundwater contaminants include benzene, toluene, ethylene and xylene (BTEX) compounds. The burn pond sludge, was found to be contaminated with BTEX compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The soil beneath the pond sludge is also contaminated at lower concentrations. Accidental ingestion of soil or sludge could pose a health risk. Since the site lies within the 100-year floodplain, flooding of the site area is a concern.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status



Initial Actions: Source Control: In 1990 the potentially responsible party began conducting a remedial investigation (RI) to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site and a feasibility study (FS) to consider alternatives for remediation. In 1992 the Record of Decision (ROD) was written for the first operable unit (OU1) selecting a remedy to address the source of contamination, including off-site removal of sludge from the burn pond and in-situ bioremediation and soil flushing of underlying soil beneath the sludge. In 1992 the responsible party began construction of an interceptor trench on the north and east sides of the burn pond. The first phase of the remedial action continued through March 1996, and included dredging and processing sludge, petroleum recovery, and shipment of solids offsite. In 1996, the installation of aerators in the pond initiated the second phase of the remedial action, the bioremediation of soils and soil flushing.



Site Studies: Groundwater: In 1993 the potentially responsible party began conducting an RI into the nature and extent of the contamination of the groundwater. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed by the responsible party, and groundwater sampling indicated contamination in the alluvial aquifer only. The lower bedrock aquifer, the Florence Aquifer, which is a drinking water aquifer, was not contaminated. In 1998, a ROD was written for the second operable unit selecting the no-remedial action alternative with quarterly groundwater monitoring. The alluvial aquifer did not provide sufficient yield to be utilized for drinking water and the lower bedrock drinking water aquifer was not contaminated.

Site Facts:

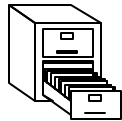
In 1986 the KDHE issued an Administrative Order to the owner, Pester Refinery Company, to conduct an RI/FS. Pester demonstrated an inability to pay for the clean up and filed for bankruptcy. In 1990 a previous owner, Fina, along with Pester, signed a Consent Order with the KDHE in which the companies agreed to conduct the RI/FS. In 1992 a Record of Decision (ROD) was written selecting a remedy of off-site removal of sludge from the burn pond and in-situ bioremediation and soil flushing. In September 1993 an Order was signed by the KDHE and Fina in which the company agreed to conduct the remedial design (RD) and remedial action (RA) for the site. In December 1993 an Order was signed by the KDHE and Fina in which the company agreed to perform the RI/FS for the groundwater operable unit (OU2). The remedial action began in 1994. In 1998 a ROD was written for OU2, the groundwater operable unit, requiring quarterly monitoring. In March 2000 an Order was signed by the KDHE and Fina for the monitoring for the groundwater operable unit (OU2) and the RD and RA for OU1. The monitoring for OU2 includes quarterly groundwater monitoring and sediment monitoring. In 1999 a five year review was conducted in which the site was determined to be protective of human health and the environment while the site remediation continued. In March 2000 an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) described a reinterpretation of the soil cleanup goals for polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons to reflect current policy on individual toxicities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



By addressing the source of site contamination, the EPA has determined that the Pester Refinery Company site does not pose an immediate threat to human health and the environment while the remaining site cleanup activities are being conducted. A five-year review report was conducted in 1999 and the site was found to be protective of human health and the environment while site activities are ongoing. If a remedial action is selected that results in any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at the site, the remedial action must be reviewed no less often than each five years after the initiation of the remedial action to assure that human health and the environment are being protected by the remedial action being implemented. The next five year review will be conducted in 2004.

SITE REPOSITORY



Bradford Memorial Library
611 South Washington
El Dorado, Kansas

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-4038

REGIONAL CONTACTS

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PHONE NUMBER:

(785) 296-1671

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

KS

0753

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

04

EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-MOKS/SUPR

MODIFICATIONS

Created by:

Karla
Asberry/SUPRFUND/R7/US
EPA/US

Created Date:

10/20/1997 03:15 PM

Last Modified by: Catherine
Barrett/SUPR/R7/USEPA/US

Last Modified Date: 07/10/2002 11:07 AM
